

# St Joseph's Catholic Primary School: Newsletter 29.11.24

## Mission

Together we love, learn, follow Jesus

## Vision

At St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, through an open and generous heart, we learn together as a family in faith, following the gospel values of love.

## Values

Hope Thankfulness Collaboration Compassion Friendship Resilience Empathy Creativity Justice Respect

**A Message from Miss Dewhurst:** Another week has gone in school as we head nearer and nearer to the holidays! This Sunday marks the start of Advent, a word which means "important arrival". A time where we start to prepare for the birth of Jesus; sent into the world to remind us of the hope, peace, love and joy that God gives us. In school, we have our Advent wreath ready to help us prepare for Jesus. Each week we will light our candles and, as that light grows brighter, be reminded that, Jesus, the light of the world, is coming. We talk with the children about the different ways in which we can prepare for Jesus and the kind things we can do to help others. Pope Francis reminds us that Advent is not only a time to prepare for the coming of Jesus, but a time for peace. He reminds us that peace is not only a gift from God, but is also a responsibility that all people have. An important message for us all.



**Pope Francis:** *Awaiting God is an important part of our journey of faith. Each day, the Lord visits us, speaks to us, reveals Himself in unexpected ways, and He will come again at the end of life and time. The Lord therefore urges us to stay awake, be vigilant, and persevere in waiting.*

**Happy Birthday to:**

Alice & Viola

**Classroom Round Up:** What a busy week we've had in **Class R/1!** In Phonics this week, Reception have been learning the ch, sh, th and ng sounds, while Year One have been revising the ou, ow and Miss Oh No's ow digraph. In geography, the children described ways in which we can help to stop plastic pollution. They were shocked to hear how long plastic stays in the ocean! The Extraordinary Gardener is our focus text in English and the children have been busy sequencing, retelling and making predictions about events in the text. In PSHE this week, we talked about the importance of saying sorry and how this can help to mend broken friendships. A highlight of the week was putting up and decorating the class Christmas tree, as well as painting some baubles to go on it too.



We have had a lovely week in **Class 2/3/4,** ending with a lovely, peaceful and prayerful Celebration of the Word with our wonderful families. Each child loved being able to share this time with our wider community and enjoyed writing their Advent promises. In science, we investigated how to keep our pets healthy and what nutrition they need. In English, we have begun to plan and write our own fables based on Mouse and Lion. This week the children have been incredibly determined to complete their assessments to their highest standard, putting in 100% effort each time, I am so proud of each one of them.

It has been assessment week in **Class 5/6** and it has been lovely to see such a positive attitude to learning being demonstrated. In English, we have now finished reading the Highwayman poem and therefore worked as a class to present the poem by reading it out loud. The children really enjoyed this and it was lovely to see their understanding of the poem come to life. In PE, we have started our new dance unit which focuses on 'dance throughout the ages'. We created a motif based on the 1920s and 1930s this week which was incredibly fun!



## School Attendance:

	This Week	This Year
Yr R	98.5%	97.1%
Yr 1	<b>100%</b>	97.8%
Yr 2	95.5%	95.3%
Yr 3	77.8%	95.6%
Yr 4	99.1%	97.4%
Yr 5	97.1%	95.6%
Yr 6	95.3%	97.6%
Total	95.5%	96.6%

## Award Winners

### ★ CI R/1:

★ Dojo Champion: **Valentina**  
 ★ School Values/Mission: **Luke**—Respect—for being a kind, respectful and polite member of the class who is a great role model to his classmates!

### ★ CI 2/3:/4

★ Dojo Champion: **Darcy**  
 ★ School Values/Mission: **George H**—Resilience—Well done for volunteering last minute to read our ending prayer out loud in our families' Prayer and Liturgy. You read with such confidence and fluency.

### ★ CI 5/6:

★ Dojo Champion: **James**  
 ★ School Values/Mission: **Isla**—Collaboration—working with her peers this week when tasked with working in a group in English and geography

**Children's Liturgy:** Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent. Advent is a special time when we wait in hope for the coming of Jesus. In the Gospel, Jesus is talking about when he will come again. Even though we do not know the exact time when Jesus will come again, he says that we need to be ready. We have to wait and watch for him. Waiting is not easy, is it? Especially if we don't know when the thing or the person we are waiting for will arrive. We do not know when Jesus will come again, but in today's Gospel Jesus tells us to pray and to watch how we behave while we are waiting, so that we will be ready when he comes.

The other thing that is special about waiting for Jesus during Advent is hope. We have hope that Jesus will one day come again and make all things new. We have hope because of his birth long ago in a stable in Bethlehem, when he came to show all people God's love for us. We can share hope with others, by being with them in difficult times, by giving them a smile or a hug, or by helping them with something that is hard. What is your hope this Advent? And how do you think you could share hope with others around the world?

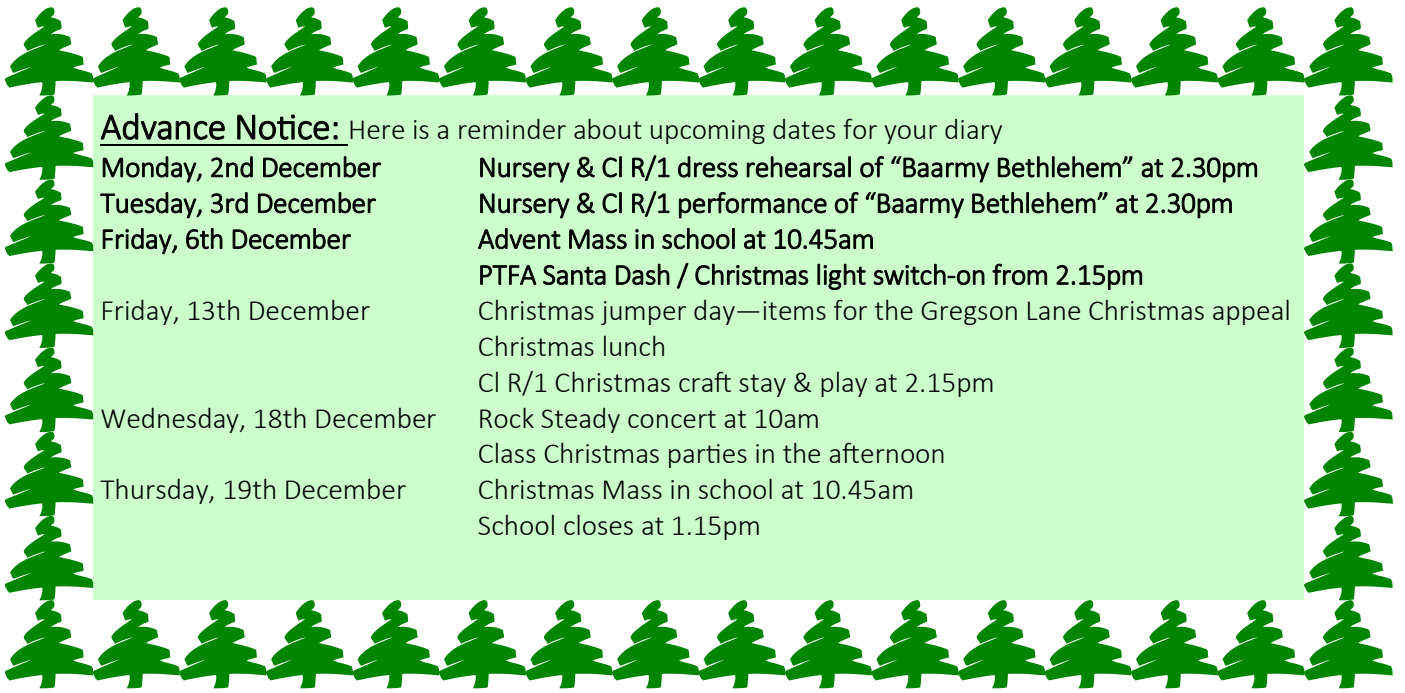
We would love to see you on Sunday at 9:30am Mass - Children's Liturgy Room. Children's Liturgy Team



**Deck the halls:** This week at Stanley Grange, our Year 3 pupils were helping to get ready for Christmas by working in groups to design and pain festive pictures on the windows. The colourful creations included baby Jesus, Angel Gabriel, Christmas trees and snowmen.







**Advance Notice:** Here is a reminder about upcoming dates for your diary

Monday, 2nd December	Nursery & CI R/1 dress rehearsal of "Baarmy Bethlehem" at 2.30pm
Tuesday, 3rd December	Nursery & CI R/1 performance of "Baarmy Bethlehem" at 2.30pm
Friday, 6th December	Advent Mass in school at 10.45am
Friday, 13th December	PTFA Santa Dash / Christmas light switch-on from 2.15pm
Friday, 13th December	Christmas jumper day—items for the Gregson Lane Christmas appeal
Friday, 13th December	Christmas lunch
Friday, 13th December	CI R/1 Christmas craft stay & play at 2.15pm
Wednesday, 18th December	Rock Steady concert at 10am
Wednesday, 18th December	Class Christmas parties in the afternoon
Thursday, 19th December	Christmas Mass in school at 10.45am
Thursday, 19th December	School closes at 1.15pm

**Sunday Gospel:** Jesus said to his disciples, "There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars and on the earth, and the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man approaching in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand upright, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand. Watch yourselves; be careful not to let your hearts be weighted down with the cares of life. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to stand with confidence before the Son of Man." Luke 21: 25-28, 24-26 (Wednesday Word)

**This week spotted by pupils: Emily & Charlotte**  
For being very creative in dance club!

**Rainbow Raffle:** Many thanks for all the colourful donations sent into school today. Members of our PTFA will be sorting them into hampers and you could be in with a chance of winning them in our Christmas raffle!



### Democracy

I can use my voice to raise awareness of issues that are important to me, like the environment. My opinions should be heard and I should listen to the opinions of others too.



**Reindeer Food:** One of our Year One pupils has been busy making a special festive treat for Santa's four-legged helpers.

Packets of reindeer food are available—for a donation—from the school office.

All proceeds will go towards buying Christmas craft materials for school!



### Recent Correspondence

Please find below a list of information that has been sent out this week.

Remember to check School Spider for all communication from school:

*Christmas clothes swap 29.11.24*

*Advent Mass 06.12.24*

*Mad Science After School Club*

*Baarmy Bethlehem: Costumes & Dates*

*Rock Steady Concert: Costumes*

*CI 2/3/4 Prayer & Liturgy*

*Rainbow Day Reminder*

*Wednesday Word*

*PTFA Asda Cashpot*

*Let's Go Sing: March 11th 2025*

*School Meals: week commencing 02.12.24*



## SCHOOL ADMISSIONS PRIMARY SOUTH

Do you have a child starting primary school in September 2025 and living in Lancashire?

**Closing date: 15 January 2025**

You **must** apply even if a brother or sister is already at the school, or the school is linked to your child's nursery. Please read the admission criteria for your chosen schools on the website, or get a copy from them.

Apply for a school place now by scanning the QR code or visit [lancashire.gov.uk/schools](https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools)



If travel cost is an important factor in your school preference, please check the guidance on our website, or call **01772 532109**.

**HAVE  
YOUR SAY**

Between 1 October and 31 January schools are consulting with you to make sure admission arrangements meet future needs. To find out more please visit [www.lancashire.gov.uk/schoolplaces](https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/schoolplaces) and click 'school admission policies'.

[lancashire.gov.uk](https://www.lancashire.gov.uk)



**Lancashire**  
County  
Council







# St Joseph's

## CHRISTMAS ART COMPETITION

Children are invited to create a piece of  
artwork based on the theme  
'Winter Wonderland'

*All entries must be handed into  
Miss Ollerton by Wednesday 18th  
December.*

**A winner will be chosen from  
each year group.**





Friday 6th December at 2.15pm

*Please join us for the annual St Joseph's PTFA*



# SPONSORED SANTA DASH



AND NEW FOR 2024  
THE BIG  
CHRISTMAS LIGHTS  
SWITCH ON!



2.15 PM CHILDREN TO SING A CAROL/  
OFFICIAL LIGHT SWITCH ON - FRONT OF  
SCHOOL BY OFFICE

2.30 PM REFRESHMENTS IN THE HALL FOR  
SCHOOL FAMILIES WHILE THE CHILDREN  
PREPARE FOR THE SANTA DASH

2.50 - SPONSORED SANTA DASH IN MAIN  
PLAYGROUND



PLEASE SEND IN ANY SPONSORSHIP MONEY TO SCHOOL  
HOPEFULLY WE HAVE THE WEATHER IN OUR FAVOUR BUT A PLAN B WILL  
BE MADE FOR THE SAME DAY JUST INCASE



## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

SNAP STREAK

97

DAYS

# SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION

13+

Snapchat is a messaging app which allows users to send images, videos and texts to others. Its best-known feature is that anything sent 'disappears' 24 hours after it's been viewed; however, users are known to take screenshots or use another device to obtain a photo of their screen. In 2023, Snapchat added a chatbot function called 'My AI'.

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

My AI is Snapchat's new chatbot, which replies to questions in a human-like manner. However, the software is still in its infancy and has significant drawbacks, such as biased, incorrect or misleading responses. There have already been numerous reports of young users turning to AI for medical help and diagnoses, which could be inaccurate and therefore potentially dangerous.

#### PREDATORS AND SCAMS

Predators can exploit Snapchat's disappearing messages by, for example, telling a user they have naked photos of them and will post them unless they're paid. Snapchat's own research found that 65% of teenagers had experienced this – on this app or others. This likely isn't helped by 'SnapMaps' – a feature which highlights your exact position in real-time. This is meant to help friends keep track of each other, but could be used for more sinister reasons.

#### MY EYES ONLY

Snapchat has a hidden photo vault called 'My Eyes Only'. Teens can conceal sensitive photos and videos from parents and carers in this folder, which is protected by a PIN. You can check for this by clicking on the icon which looks like two playing cards. This takes you to the 'Memories' folder which stores photos, stories and the My Eyes Only folder.

#### SCREEN TIME ADDICTION

Snapchat prioritises user engagement, with features like streaks (messaging the same person every day to build up a high score). The app also has sections called 'Discover' and 'Spotlight', which show tailored content to each user. However, this could also be seen as an attempt to hook users into watching videos endlessly. Furthermore, constant notifications can lure people into using the app.

#### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat simply isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's 'disappearing messages' feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

#### ONLINE PRESSURES

Although many of Snapchat's filters are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beautify' effects on photos can set unrealistic body image expectations – creating feelings of inadequacy in younger users. Snapchat now also has 'priority' notifications (which still get displayed even if a device is in 'do not disturb' mode), increasing the pressure on users to log back in and interact.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

#### UTILISE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Snapchat's 'Family Centre' lets you view the details of the child's account – their friends list and who they've spoken to in the last week – and report any concerns. You must invite a child to the Family Centre for them to join. To keep the child's location hidden on the app, go into settings and turn on 'Ghost Mode' and 'Hide Live Location', and ensure they know not to share their location with anyone.

#### BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger does connect with a child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending sexual images to them, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile and report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user – such as annoying or malicious messages, spam or masquerading as someone else.

#### FAMILIARISE YOURSELF

Before you allow a child to download Snapchat, download it yourself and familiarise yourself with the app. Snapchat has produced a parents' guide to the app to help you understand how it works and any protections they have in place. A link for this can be found in the sources below.

#### ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. For example, discuss My AI's responses to questions and how reliable they are. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

#### Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/snapchat-2021>

@wake\_up\_weds

/wuw.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 27.11.2024



**Does your child love to sing and act?  
Help your child reach their full potential!**



**AGES  
4-18**

- Inspirational singing and drama lessons
- Build confidence and nurture talent
- Boost communication & social skills
- Small class sizes of no more than 8
- LAMDA examinations

**FREE  
TRIAL  
CLASS**

For more information and to book a free trial or enrol your child, contact...

**07480 064828**

**Rachel@littlevoices.org.uk  
littlevoices.org.uk/preston**

**LittleVoices**  
Drama & Singing Lessons of Distinction

**Find your nearest Preston venue**

**Mini Voices age 4-7, Little Voices age 7-12, Voices age 13-18**

**Leyland**

Balshaw's School, Church Rd,  
Leyland PR25 3AH

**Bamber Bridge**

Valley Church, Bamber Bridge,  
Preston PR5 6GS

**Fulwood**

Christ Church, Victoria Rd,  
Preston PR2 8NE

**Chorley**

Primrose Gardens, Fleet Street,  
Chorley, PR7 2EE



WEDNESDAYS  
AFTER  
SCHOOL

THURSDAYS  
AFTER  
SCHOOL

MONDAYS  
AFTER  
SCHOOL

TUESDAYS  
AFTER  
SCHOOL



We teach **LAMDA**  
Qualifications

All LittleVoices Principals and Tutors are fully enhanced DBS checked. LittleVoices is a registered trademark of LittleVoices Limited. LittleVoices schools and centres are operated as a franchise. LIP or site trader and are independently owned by the franchisee or individual. Terms and conditions apply. Prices may vary subject to negotiation.

**LittleVoices**  
Drama & Singing Lessons of Distinction



**BROWNEDGE ST  
MARY'S CATHOLIC  
HIGH SCHOOL**

St Catherine's

**CHRISTMAS MARKET**

**4PM - 8PM FRIDAY 6TH DECEMBER**

- TURKEY BUTTIES & MULLED WINE \* SANTA'S GROTTO \* CALL ME FLOWER \* WAFFLES & CREPES \* JAMS & CHUTNEYS \* DOLLYPEGS HAND-PAINTED \* HAND-TURNED WOOD \* PICKLES OF PRESTON \* LOLIPOPS \* FLOSSY BOSS \* ICE CREAM CART \* RAFFLE \* BROWNEDGE BAND \* THE FUDGE DEALER \* CHRISTMAS WREATHS \* BOUJEE BASKETS \* TRAY BAKES \* SOFT TOYS \* CHRISTMAS GIFTS \* CRYSTAL JEWELLERY \* CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS & DECORATIONS \* ST CATHERINE'S HOSPICE \* YOUNG ENTERPRISE \* CUSHIONS \* CHOCOLATE DELIGHTS \* DITZY BLOND \* WAX MELTS \* FLYING PIG PIZZA \* WREATHS & BOOKMARKS \* CALENDARS \* FARM GIFTS & ORNAMENTS \* CHOCOLATE FOUNTAIN \* TALK OF THE TOWN \* BLOOMS BY MICHELLE \* NORTHERN CHOCOLATE CO. \* PEBBLE ART \* BRIC-A-BRAC \* OUR PAULA'S BUTTER \* CANDLES \* HAND-MADE GOODS \* ETSY GIFTS \* COPPER CABIN \* PAINTINGS \* NAME THE BEAR \* TASTY TREATZ \* RESIN CRAFT \* PICTURE PERFECT PHOTOBOOTH \* BEATTIE'S BAKERY

**PROCEEDS BENEFITTING ST CATHERINE'S HOSPICE**